COPY

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM Amembassy MOSCOW

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON November 2, 1959

REF Ourtel 1304, October 31, 1959

SUBJECT CITIZENSHIP: Lee Harvey OSWALD

Mr. Lee Harvey OSWALD, an American citizen, appeared at this Embassy October 31, 1959 and stated to Second Secretary Richard E. Snyder that he wishes to renounce his American citizenship and that he had applied to become a citizen of the Soviet Union. He presented to the interviewing officer his passport and the following signed, undated, handwritten statement, the original of which is retained by the Embassy (misspellings are as in original):

"I Lee Harey (cq) Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States of america, be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of appling for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for citizenship is now pending before the Surprem Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

s/ Lee H. Oswald

Oswald is the bearer of Passport No. 1733242, issued September 10, 1959 (retained at the Embassy). The passport shows that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 18, 1939, and gives his occupation as "shipping export agent". Oswald gave his last address in the United States as that of his mother at 4936 Collinwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. A telegram subsequently received at the Embassy for him indicates that a brother, Robert L. Oswald, resides at 7313 Davenport, Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that he was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on September 11, 1959. Highest grade achieved was corporal. Oswald evidently applied for his passport to the Agency at San Francisco while still in service. He stated that he had contemplated the action which he took for about two years before his discharge. He departed from the United States through New Orleans with the intent of traveling to the Soviet Union through Northern Europe. He states that he first applied for a Soviet tourist visa in Helsinki on October 14,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY

that he applied for Soviet citizenship by letter to the Supreme Soviet on October 16 in Moscow. He stated that he did not mention his intent to remain in the Soviet Union to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki at the time of his visa application.

Throughout the interview Oswald's manner was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative. He appeared to be competent. He insisted that he did not wish to waste time in discussion or answering questions concerning his "personal" affairs beyond what was directly related to divesting himself of his American citizenship. He was contemptuous of any efforts by the interviewing officer in his interest, made clear that he wanted no advice from the Embassy. He stated that he knew the provisions of U. S. law on loss of citizenship and declined to have them reviewed by the interviewing officer. In short he displayed all the airs of a new sophomore party-liner.

Oswald gave as the "principal reason" for his decision that "I am a marxist", but declined any further elaboration of his motives. However, other remarks bearing on his attitude were made during the interview. At one point he alluded to hardships endured by his mother as a "worker" and stated that he did not intend to have this happen to him. He also referrred to himself several times as a "worker", but admitted that he had never held a civilian job, having entered the Marine Corps directly from junior year of high school. (He claimed to have completed high school while in service.) He stated that his service in Okinawa and elsewhere "gave me a chance to observe 'American imperialism.'" At another point he reacted sensitively when asked, in connection with his rank in the Marine Corps, whether he felt he should have had a higher grade.

Oswald categorically refused to discuss his family beyond stating that he was not married and that he has a mother in Texas. He had obliterated the address written on the inside cover of his passport and steadfastly refused to give any last home address until it was elicited by the "threat" that nothing could be done about his request to renounce his citizenship without this information. After giving the address noted above, he then confirmed that it was his mother's address. He would not say whether he had informed his mother and rebuffed any suggestion of concern for her.

Oswald offered the information that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and that he had voluntarily stated to unnamed Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his speciality as he possessed. He intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Oswald is presently residing in non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow awaiting the Soviet response to his application for citizenship. As his Soviet visa and militia registration expired on October 22, 1959, and have not been renewed, he is patently in a technically illegal residence status with the tacit consent of the Soviet authorities.

For what significance it may have, the foregoing was also the pattern in the Nicholas PETRULLI case (our Despatch 111, September 11, 1959). Having

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
COPY

COPY

evidently concluded, after allowing Petrulli to languish "illegally" in a local hotel for a month, that he was no asset as a Soviet citizen, the Soviets suddenly invited him to depart, pointing out that he had "overstayed" his visa.

In view of the Petrulli case and other considerations, the Embassy proposes to delay action on Oswald's request to execute an oath of renunciation to the extent dictated by developments and subject to the Department's advice.

/s/ Edward L. Freers
Edward L. Freers
Charge d'Affaires, ad interim

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY

CD 692

NODEX-M

AIR

(Security classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
PPT

FROM: Embassy MOSCOW — DESP. NO. 204

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — DATE: November 2, 1959

REF: Ourtel 1304, October 31, 1959

	ACTION	DEPT.
Loc Dept / Loc Unit	REC'D	INFO OTHER

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP: Lee Harvey OSWALD

Mr. Lee Harvey OSWALD, an American citizen, appeared at this Embassy October 31, 1959 and stated to Second Secretary Richard E. Snyder that he wishes to renounce his American citizenship and that he had applied to become a citizen of the Soviet Union. He presented to the interviewing officer his passport and the following signed, undated, handwritten statement, the original of which is retained by the Embassy (misspellings are as in original):

"I Lee Harey (cq) Oswald do hereby request that my present citizenship in the United States of America, be revoked.

"I have entered the Soviet Union for the express purpose of appling for citizenship in the Soviet Union, through the means of naturalization.

"My request for citizenship is now pending before the Surprem Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

"I take these steps for political reasons. My request for the revoking of my American citizenship is made only after the longest and most serious considerations.

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

s/ Lee H. Oswald

Oswald is the bearer of Passport No. 1733242, issued September 10, 1959 (retained at the Embassy). The passport shows that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 18, 1939, and gives his occupation as "shipping export agent". Oswald gave his last address in the United States as that of his mother at 4936 Collinwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. A telegram subsequently received at the Embassy for him indicates that a brother, Robert L. Oswald, resides at 7313 Davenport, Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that he was discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps on September 11, 1959. Highest grade achieved was corporal. Oswald evidently applied for his passport to the Agency at San Francisco while still in service. He stated that he had contemplated the action which he took for about two years before his discharge. He departed from the United States through New Orleans with the intent of traveling to the Soviet Union through Northern Europe. He states that he first applied for a Soviet tourist visa in Helsinki on October 14,

Richard E. Snyder:mc

WASHINGTON COPY

POOR ORIGINAL

that he applied for Soviet citizenship by letter to the Supreme Soviet on October 16 in Moscow. He stated that he did not mention his intent to remain in the Soviet Union to the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki at the time of his visa application.

Throughout the interview Oswald's manner was aggressive, arrogant, and uncooperative. He appeared to be competent. He insisted that he did not wish to waste time in discussion or answering questions concerning his "personal" affairs beyond what was directly related to divesting himself of his American citizenship. He was contemptuous of any efforts by the interviewing officer in his interest, made clear that he wanted no advice from the Embassy. He stated that he knew the provisions of U. S. law on loss of citizenship and declined to have them reviewed by the interviewing officer. In short he displayed all the airs of a new sophomore party-liner.

Oswald gave as the "principal reason" for his decision that "I am a marxist", but declined any further elaboration of his motives. However, other remarks bearing on his attitude were made during the interview. At one point he alluded to hardships endured by his mother as a "worker" and stated that he did not intend to have this happen to him. He also referred to himself several times as a "worker", but admitted that he had never held a civilian job, having entered the Marine Corps directly from junior year of high school. (He claimed to have completed high school while in service.) He stated that his service in Okinawa and elsewhere "gave me a chance to observe American imperialism." At another point he reacted sensitively when asked, in connection with his rank in the Marine Corps, whether he felt he should have had a higher grade.

Oswald categorically refused to discuss his family beyond stating that he was not married and that he has a mother in Texas. He had obliterated the address written on the inside cover of his passport and steadfastly refused to give any last home address until it was elicited by the "threat" that nothing could be done about his request to renounce his citizenship without this information. After giving the address noted above, he then confirmed that it was his mother's address. He would not say whether he had informed his mother and rebuffed any suggestion of concern for her.

Oswald offered the information that he had been a radar operator in the Marine Corps and that he had voluntarily stated to unnamed Soviet officials that as a Soviet citizen he would make known to them such information concerning the Marine Corps and his speciality as he possessed. He intimated that he might know something of special interest.

Oswald is presently residing in non-tourist status at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow awaiting the Soviet response to his application for citizenship. As his Soviet visa and militia registration expired on October 22, 1959, and have not been renewed, he is potentially in a technically illegal residence status with the tacit consent of the Soviet authorities.

For what significance it may have, the foregoing was also the pattern in the Nicholas PETRULLI case (our Despatch 111, September 11, 1959). Having

(Classification)

evidently concluded, after allowing Petrulli to languish "illegally" in a local hotel for a month, that he was no asset as a Soviet citizen, the Soviets suddenly invited him to depart, pointing out that he had "overstayed" his visa.

In view of the Petrulli case and other considerations, the Embassy proposes to delay action on Oswald's request to execute an oath of renunciation to the extent dictated by developments and subject to the Department's advice.

Richard L. Freers
Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim

(Classification)